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Message Text

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11
ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 NEA-10 EA-11 DRC-01 /152 W
---------- 016497
R 070401Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1685
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
CINCPAC
CINCLANT
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0331

MILITARY FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR US XO SO

SUBJ: SOMALI REACTION TO DIEGO GARCIA

REF: A. MOGADISCIO 0186 (NOTAL); B. MOGADISCIO 0276 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THERE CONTINUES TO BE NO OFFICIAL GSDR REACTION TO DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION. A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF UNFAVORABLE COMMENT HAS APPEARED IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA: BUT DESPITE SOVIET PRESSURE, WE THINK IT UNLIKELY THAT SOMALIS WILL AGITATE OFFICIALLY ON THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF ANY OFFICIAL GSDR COMMENT
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ON U.S. EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA FACILITIES DURING MONTH

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SINCE WE NOTIFIED GSDR FEB 5 PER INSTRUCTIONS (REF A).

3. DURING FEBRUARY, SOMALI MEDIA CARRIED FACTUAL ACCOUNTS OF PROTESTS BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS, INCLUDING TANZANIA, INDIA AND INDONESIA. ACCOUNTS OFTEN ACCOMPANIED BY NEGATIVE GENERAL REFERENCES TO "IMPERIALISTS". ALLEGEDLY "INDEPENDENT" WEEKLY HORSEED, ON FEB 15, CARRIED ARTICLE IN ITALIAN CRITICIZING U.S. ACTION, STATING THAT SOVIET SHIPS IN INDIAN OCEAN HAVE "ONLY PEACEFUL AIMS", WHILE U.S. INTENDS "A POLICY OF INTIMIDATION AGAINST NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND AGAINST DEVELOPING STATES WHICH ASPIRE TO COMPLETE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE". ON FEB 28, ENGLISH LANGUAGE SONNA NEWS BULLETING, WITH VERY LIMITED CIRCULATION, INCLUDED QUOTATIONS FROM PRAVDA CRITICIZING DIEGO GARCIA PROJECT AND GENERAL FACT OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN. MAR 4 DAILY OCTOBER STAR IN SOMALICARRIED ON BACK PAGE BRIEF TASS DESPATCH FROM TANANARIVE QUBZING A MALAGASY "FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE" STATEMENT AGAINST DIEGO GARCIA PROJECT.

4. THE ONE MAJOR ATTACK ON DIEGO GARCIA IN SOMALI-LANGUAGE MEDIA APPEARED IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED OCTOBER STAR, FEB 23, IN ARTICLE SIGNED BY INDIVIDUAL JOURNALIST, TITLED "INDIAN OCEAN AND IMPERIALIST BASES", (HIGHLIGHTS QUOTED REF B). ARTICLE REFERS TO OFFICIAL PROTESTS AGAINST U.S. ACTION BY OTHER COUNTRIES, AND ENIES REPORTS OF DE FACTO SOVIET BASES IN SOMALIA AND ELSEWHERE WITH COMMENT THAT "IT IS AGAINST THE SOCIALIST NATURE OF THE SOVIET UNION TO ESTABLISH BASES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES". ARTICLE STATES "IMPERIALIST BASES IN INDIAN OCEAN HAVE THREE AIMS": TO INTIMIDATE SOVEREIGNTY OF SURROUNDING NATIONS WHILE PROTECTING REACTIONARY REGIMES; TO DEFEND RACIST REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; AND TO KEEP RED SEA OPEN FOR ISRAEL BY INTIMIDATING ARABS. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT A CONFERENCE OF "STATES AND LIBERATION MOVEMENTS SURROUNDING INDIAN OCEAN" IS NEEDED TO DISCUSS "APPROPRIATE MEASURES", WHICH WOULD INCLUDE FURTHER CONFERENCES ON SUBJECT.

5. COMMENT: TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, ABOVE REFERENCE TO CONFERENCE REMAINS WITHOUT FOLLOW UP BY GSDR OR IN MEDIA. IT IS LIKELY THAT SOVIETS ARE PRESSING SOMALIS TO CRITICIZE OFFICIALLY DIEGO GARCIA PROJECT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOVIET POSITION AND IN LINE
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WITH CRITICAL STATEMENTS BY VARIOUS OTHER GOVERNMENTS IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA. HOWEVER, IT IS DOUBTFUL IF GSDR WILL DO MUCH MORE THAN ALLOW CONTINUING OCCASSIONAL CRITICISM IN MEDIA. SOVIET NAVAL USE OF SOMALI FACILITIES AT BERBERA IS SO WELL KNOWN BOTH HERE AND ABROAD THAT SERIOUS PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF "FOREIGN BASES" WOULD BE EMBARRASSING SUBJECT FOR GSDR, PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXT OF ITS PRESENT MAJOR EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH ANTI-SOVIET ARAB COUNTRIES SUCH AS LIBYA AND SAUDI ARABIA. ARTICLE

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SUMMARIZED PARA 4 APPEARS TO BE EXTREME EXAMPLE, UP TO NOW ISOLATED, OF PERMITTED ANTI-U.S. RHETORIC. IT DOES NOT APPEAR INDICATIVE OF ANY GSDR POLICY TO AGITATE OFFICIALLY ABOUT DIEGO GARCIA.
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